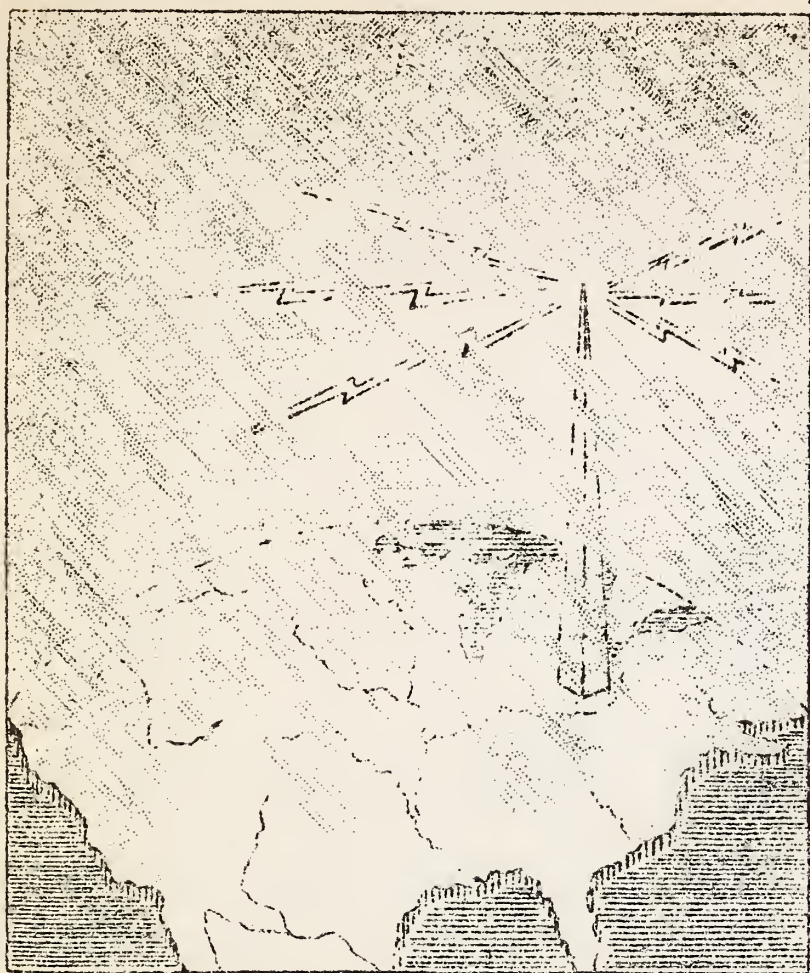


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FORTUNES

WASHED

AWAY

"SUGAR MAPLE COUNTRY"

Broadcast No. 12 in the third year
in a series of dramatizations
of better land use

WLW, Cincinnati

July 13, 1940

1:15-1:30 p.m.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
DAYTON, OHIO

SOUND: Thunder and rain...

ANNOUNCER

Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN THEME: I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS.

ANNOUNCER

The unbroken wilderness of New Connecticut land beckoned to hardy New Englanders at the close of the Revolutionary War. This portion of the Western Reserve was opened to settlement after a survey by General Moses Cleaveland, a director of the Connecticut Land Company and founder of the city that bears his name. Picturesque Geauga County in northeast Ohio is in the heart of this territory.

ORGAN: YANKEE DOODLE.

ANNOUNCER

By foot, by horse, by oxcart, the New Englanders pushed westward into Ohio at the turn of the 19th century. Alvin Kile and Moses Grey were two of these early migrants to Geauga County...(fade).

SOUND: Occasional bird twitters thru following...

KILE (whistles a few bars of Yankee Doodle).

Hey, Mose, how about me riding for awhile?

GREY

If you'll just quit that blamed whistling, I'll walk the next ten miles. Whistle, whistle, whistle. All right, steady there, boy, you're about to take on your other rider.

SOUND: Saddle creaks, horse snorts and stamps feet as Grey dismounts

KILE (sighs with relief as he settles into saddle)

Whew! This hard old saddle feels as good as a feather bed!

GREY

I don't mind walking, but halfway on foot from Connecticut to Ohio is a little too much! (mutters) And I'm not so sure I'm getting to ride half of the way.

KILE (cheerfully)

That's what comes from having only one horse between us, my lad! Anyhow, it isn't much farther to Cleveland.

GREY (agressively)

Well, I still want to try out the land south of that big lake.

KILE

Oh, we can go that way after we see what this new town's like.

(starts to whistle again).

GREY (sarcastically)

There goes "Birdie" Kile again with his whistling. (shouts) Hey, look out for that mudhole!

KILE

Oh, my gosh! Whoa!

SOUND: Horse flounders in mud and water, snorts, both men yell...

GREY

Now you've done it.

KILE

Well, don't stand there growling. Help me get out of here.

GREY (sarcastically)

Let's see you whistle your way out. Come on...you'll have to get off that horse before he can get out. He's in up to his withers.

KILE

I suppose you want me to walk through that stuff and get stuck, too. Toss some logs or brush in here for me!

GREY (muttering)

Whistling and not watching where you're going.

SOUND: A log or two smacks into mud and water.

KILE

That's enough. I can make it now. There.

GREY

Now that you're on dry land, let's help the horse.

KILE

Come on.

SOUND: Men yell and tug at reins, shout encouragement to horse. Horse flounders as he fights way out of mudhole.

KILE

That's got it.

GREY

Now let me ride that horse. Nothing like that ever happens when I'm in the saddle. I pay attention to where I'm going.

ORGAN: YANKEE DOODLE, fading...

ANNOUNCER

Here in the wilderness of Geauga County were preserved the characteristics of New England. These pioneers knew well that the three great forces that constitute the strength and glory of a free government are the family, the school, and the church. Geauga County became a land of happy homes, its vast forests broken here and there by small plots of cropland. Frontier life had many hardships, many obstacles...(fade).

SOUND: Axes chopping trees...

GREY

Whew! This is about the hardest work I've ever done, Alvin.

KILE

Chopping a fallow of five acres isn't child's play, Mose, especially when there are trees like these.

GREY

They are wonderful, aren't they: These great sugar maples...it seems a pity to ever cut one.

KILE

I don't believe in cutting more than enough for fallow. Someday these maples will mean much to this country. Say, what are you scratching so hard for?

GREY

I don't know. Some kind of a bug's driving me crazy.

KILE

It's fleas, Mose. By George, They're digging into me, too. Let's take off our shirts. It'll be the only way to get rid of 'em.

GREY

Here we go, then. (grunts). Ah; that's better. The pesky little rascals.

SOUND: Axe chops a few strokes, then stops...

GREY

You know, Alvin...I'm glad we didn't stay in Cleveland. It's better here, out in the wilderness.

KILE

Cleveland didn't look like much at that.

GREY

Naw...just a courthouse, a tavern, and a few stores.

KILE

Yet, someday Cleveland will be a great city, Mose. But I'm glad, too, that we came on here. Farming is the life for me. (starts whistling Yankee Doodle again).

GREY

Say, Alvin!

KILE

Yeah?

GREY

Chopping trees like this reminds me of a story I heard about old Silas Young. (LAUGHS).

KILE

Well, let's have it.

GREY (laughs as he talks)

It seems as though Silas and four other fellows went bear huntin' the other day over on Swine Creek.

KILE

What's so funny about that? A bear steak would taste mighty good to me right now!

GREY

Well, they struck a bear's trail and followed it through the woods to a big chestnut tree. They decided to cut down the tree to get Brother Bear.

KILE

Was it a big one -- the tree, I mean?

GREY

A big one? Man, it was a whopper...the granddaddy of all trees... 'Bout nine foot through and over a hundred feet high.

KILE

Felling that one would be a big job, even for five men...but that's the way they grow around here.

GREY

Well, they started to work. It was so big they had to chop around it. (LAUGHS) It took 'em just about all day. Long around sunset, she toppled. They all grabbed their guns...

ALVIN

Yeah.. and then...

GREY

There weren't no bear in the tree! (BOTH LAUGH UPROARIOUSLY).

ORGAN: YANKEE DOODLE.

ANNOUNCER

Geauga County farms have been handed down from father to son. Some farms have been in the same family since the land was first cleared. Such is the farm of A. C. Beales, near Burton. His great grandfather settled on this land in 1812, buying it from the Connecticut Land Company for \$1.25 an acre. It represents the spirit of the thrifty New Englanders, who were wise in their use of the land. Maple trees, at first used to supply family needs for syrup and sugar, now provide the county with one of its most important resources. And not long ago, Carl Beales came home ... (fade).

SOUND: Door opens and closes...

BEALES (fading in)

Bessie! Oh, Bessie!

BESSIE

So you're back from town. What is it, Carl?

BEALES

What do you think? I've been asked to make a speech.

BESSIE

A speech? What about?

BEALES

The extension fellows down at the university in Columbus want me to talk about maple syrup production at Farmers' Week.

BESSIE

I guess you should be able to talk about that.

BEALES

I reckon so. Let's see, now, this old maple grove has been workin' for the Beales family for 128 years...for you and me, over 30 years.

BESSIE

The maples have been good to us, Carl. Just think, the income from our sugar camp...what it's meant. It bought the second farm.

BEALES

Yes, and helped send Marion and Wendell through college....

BESSIE

And gave us money besides, for investments in insurance and stock.

BEALES

Well, I guess I'd better tell them about grazing in woods. That's not good for trees. They should be protected. You know how I've always set out new trees in brushy areas so's they wouldn't be bothered by the stock.

BESSIE

Now, if you're going to start working on that speech, you'd better get some paper and a pencil and make some notes.

BEALES

Guess you're right. Say, don't you think it would be a good idea to sort of give some history of this farm? You know...some stuff about the pioneers...our folks, and some of the other settlers who came from New England.

BESSIE

Yes, I like that idea.

BEALES

You know, Bessie..none of this good fortune would have come to us if the Beales hadn't always taken good care of this land.

BESSIE

I know, Carl.

ORGAN: Sneak in BEAUTIFUL OHIO

BEALES (reflectively)

Yes, if you take care of the land...and that means things that are part of the land, like soil and trees...then the land will take care of you. These great maple trees that have meant so much to us could have been thoughtlessly destroyed, like lots of this Northwest Territory was ruined. Yes, take care of the land and it will take care of you.

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

These are true stories of historic Geauga County, Ohio, famed for its maple syrup. And now, once again we turn to the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, and here is Hal Jenkins.

JENKINS

Thanks, _____. If you haven't already visited Geauga County, you ought to make it a point to do so. It has picturesque villages, laid out in New England style, neat little farms, lots of high hills and woodlands. Well, Charles A. Dambach, biologist of the Soil Conservation Service office at Dayton, has been up there...in fact, Charlie was raised among the maple sugar camps. And it goes without saying that he's quite interested in that famous Geauga County maple syrup. Am I right, Charlie?

DAMBACH

Why, yes, Hal...I am interested in it...and for that matter, so is almost everyone else. You know a lot of that syrup produced in Geauga County is sent all over the U. S. and even to foreign lands.

JENKINS

That's just about the best compliment you could pay to any maple syrup.

DAMBACH

Well, I agree with, (announcer) should take a trip up to Chardon. Of course, it's too late for this year, but every spring they have a maple festival in Chardon.

JENKINS

Say, that does sound interesting.

DAMBACH

And right in the center of Burton, Hal, is a beautiful grove of sugar maples. I understand it's the only community-operated sugar maple grove in the country.

JENKINS

That is an unusual civic enterprise.

DAMBACH

Geauga County is mighty enterprising. Why, they have the oldest county fair in Ohio...this September will be the one hundred and ninth consecutive Geauga County fair. And it had the second county agent in the state, too.

JENKINS

You couldn't possibly be a bit prejudiced toward the old home county, could you, Charlie?

DAMBACH

Not at all.

JENKINS

Anyhow, I think you're acquainted with the Carl Beales farm...can you tell me anything more about it?

DAMBACH

I certainly can, Hal. But just one more thing -- Geauga County produces 30 percent of the maple syrup in the state. Well, you asked about the Beales farm. Carl Beales, the present owner and operator, has actual maple syrup production records that go back almost sixty years.

JENKINS

That's just a little before my time.

DAMBACH

Prior to 1880, maple syrup and sugar production was not on a commercial basis. Geauga County families tapped only enough trees to satisfy their own needs.

JENKINS

But maple syrup isn't the only activity at the Beales farm, is it?

DAMBACH

Not at all. It's one of the chief industries, of course. Mr. Beales practices diversified farming on his 200-acre place. He follows a system of obtaining a living from the general operation of the farm, and uses the syrup money for investment, development, and so forth. And that, Hal, you must admit is a mighty good system.

JENKINS

It certainly is, and thanks a lot for this information about Geauga County, Ohio...information from one who has lived there long enough to know his way around...Charles A. Dambach, biologist in the Soil Conservation Service office at Dayton. All of this goes to prove that wise land use and proper management pays big dividends. And by the way, I should mention that a farm forestry demonstration project has been set up in that section of the state. The objective is to demonstrate to all farmers that proper management of woodlands is as important as good land use for other crops. Mr. Beales stands out as a shining example of this truism. This is Hal Jenkins, speaking for the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, returning you to Ed Mason, and inviting you to be with us again next Saturday, when we bring you a story of -- alfalfa.

ORGAN THEME: I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS.

